

Conference on Disarmament

27 March 2018

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Note Verbale dated 15 March 2018 from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine transmitting the Decree of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine on the Address of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to the international community regarding the preparation of illegal elections of the President of the Russian Federation on the temporary occupied parts of the territory of Ukraine – the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, as well as the relevant Address thereto

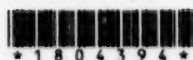
The Delegation of Ukraine to the Conference on Disarmament (CD) presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the Conference H.E. Mr. Michael Möller and the Secretariat of the CD and has the honor to transmit herewith the Decree of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine on the Address of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to the international community regarding the preparation of illegal elections of the President of the Russian Federation on the temporary occupied parts of the territory of Ukraine – the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, as well as the relevant Address thereto.

In this regard, the Ukrainian Side would like to draw particular attention to paragraph 1 of the abovementioned Decree, indicating that the intention of the authorities of the Russian Federation and the occupying administration to illegally hold on March 18, 2018 elections of the President of the Russian Federation on the temporary occupied parts of the territory of Ukraine – the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol – is a flagrant violation, in particular, of the Memorandum on Security Assurances in connection with Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Budapest Memorandum).

The delegation of Ukraine would highly appreciate if the abovementioned Decree and Address of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine could be issued as an official document of the CD and circulated to all Member States and observer States of the Conference.

The Delegation of Ukraine to the Conference on Disarmament avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the CD and the Secretariat of the CD the assurances of its highest consideration.

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**DECREE
of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine**

On the Address of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to the international community regarding the preparation of illegal elections of the President of the Russian Federation on the temporary occupied parts of the territory of Ukraine - the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine hereby decrees to:

1. Recognize that the intention of the authorities of the Russian Federation and the occupying administration to illegally hold on March 18, 2018 elections of the President of the Russian Federation on the temporary occupied parts of the territory of Ukraine – the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol – is a flagrant violation of the Constitution and laws of Ukraine, universally recognized principles and norms of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, the Final act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (Helsinki Final Act), Memorandum on Security Assurances in connection with Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Budapest Memorandum), UN General Assembly Resolution 68/262 "Territorial integrity of Ukraine", adopted on 27 March 2014 at the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly, other international legal acts, as well as numerous international agreements, which both Ukraine and the Russian Federation are parties to.
2. Ratify the Address of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to the international community regarding the preparation of illegal elections of the President of the Russian Federation on the temporary occupied parts of the territory of Ukraine – the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (attached herewith).
3. Instruct the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine to expeditiously convey the text of the Address to the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations, international organizations, parliamentary assemblies, parliaments and governments of the United Nations member states.
4. This Decree comes into effect from the date of its adoption.

ADDRESS of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

To the international community regarding the preparation of illegal elections of the President of the Russian Federation on the temporary occupied parts of the territory of Ukraine - the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol

On 20 February 2014 the Russian Federation started aggressive actions, which within a week turned into a direct military invasion and temporary occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, that are parts of the sovereign territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

On 18 March 2014 the President of the Russian Federation signed a criminal act on the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

Throughout four years the Russian Federation has been committing a crime of aggression against Ukraine and conducting occupation of a part of its territory.

The Russian Federation is committing war crimes and crimes against humanity against civilian population of the temporary occupied territories of Ukraine, including murders, tortures, abduction of people, forced displacement, deportation of civil population, ethnic discrimination, coercion to join military units of the Russian Federation and crimes against private property.

The Russian Federation wages repressions against the civilian population on the temporary occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the city of Sevastopol, as well as in certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including numerous arbitrary arrests, abductions, murders, tortures and forced displacements.

Non-recognition of legitimacy and condemnation of actions of the Russian aggressor with the demand to restore the territorial integrity of Ukraine is reflected in the decisions of the UN General Assembly, in particular, in Resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014 "Territorial integrity of Ukraine", Resolution 71/205 of 19 December 2016 "Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine)" and Resolution 72/190 of 19 December 2017 "Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine)".

The consolidated position of the international community regarding the illegitimacy of the occupation of the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and recognition of the Russian Federation as the aggressor state is also confirmed by numerous decisions of the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the European Union, NATO, other international organizations, as well as by decisions of foreign governments.

While continuing to blatantly violate the UN Charter, universally recognized principles and norms of international law, the Russian occupation authority intends to hold on 18 March 2018 elections of the President of the Russian Federation on the temporary occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

The date of 18 March was chosen intentionally, underscoring the cynicism, revanchism and aggressiveness of Kremlin's policy.

We consider such intentions to be a violation of sovereignty of Ukraine, valid international agreements between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, which confirm the sovereignty, territorial integrity and state borders of Ukraine, as well as an intended provocation against the international community, primarily, the states-signatories to the Memorandum on Security Assurances in connection with Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 5 December 1994.

The organization and carrying out of the so-called "elections" of the President of the Russian Federation on the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol are yet another attempt to legitimize the illegal

annexation. Their outcomes will not entail any legal consequences and will be recognized neither by Ukraine, nor by the international community.

In light of the abovementioned we welcome the decisions of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and of the European Union monitoring mission to not participate in observation of the illegal election process in the occupied Crimea.

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine calls upon the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the European Union, NATO, other international organizations, parliamentary assemblies, parliaments and governments of foreign states to:

1. Undertake all possible measures to prevent the government of the Russian Federation and the occupying administration from holding elections of the President of the Russian Federation on the temporary occupied territory of Ukraine – the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.
2. Should elections on the temporary occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol take place – condemn them, withhold from dispatching monitors to the region, including in the framework of international missions, as well as outline in the conclusions of the monitoring missions, dispatched, in particular, under the auspices of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the fact of illegitimate voting on the temporary occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, which substantially distorts the overall outcome of the elections within the whole Russian Federation.
3. Condemn the violation by the authorities of the Russian Federation and occupation authorities of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, human rights and freedoms on the temporary occupied part of its territory.
4. Impose additional sanctions against the Russian Federation, as well as individual sanctions (penalties) against those involved in:
 - organization of illegal voting on the temporary occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol during the elections to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of 2016, and elections of the President of the Russian Federation of 2018;
 - systematic violations of human rights on the temporary occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.
5. Enhance joint efforts to make the Russian Federation comply with the Order of the International Court of Justice of 19 April 2017 in the “Ukraine v. Russian Federation” case with regard to the due protection of human rights on the temporary occupied territories.
6. Consolidate pressure on the Russian Federation aimed at establishing permanent and direct international monitoring of the situation in Crimea by institutional and treaty bodies of the United Nations, Council of Europe, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and other international organizations, as well as at establishing control over compliance of the Russian Federation with its obligations as the occupying power under international humanitarian law.
7. Avoid state and working visits to the UN member states of the President of the Russian Federation, elected as a result of illegal elections on the temporary occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, which is an integral part of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

Withhold from accepting invitations to conduct state and working visits to the Russian Federation addressed to presidents, governments and parliaments of the UN member states.